

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DEZWEIFEL:DLD:TEXT FROM WHITEHOUSE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 205979

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, PK, US

SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT TO PASS FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PAKISTAN CMLA ZIA. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THIS LETTER. TEXT IS SELF-EXPLANATORY IN DISCUSSING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. LETTER IS INTENDED TO BE INFORMATIVE, RATHER THAN INVITATION TO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE; HOWEVER, GUIDANCE ON HANDLING QUESTIONS FROM HOST GOVERNMENT WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.
FYI: SIMILAR (IN SOME CASES IDENTICAL) LETTERS ARE BEING SENT TO A NUMBER OF OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR GENERAL ZIA:

I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTH-COMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.

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WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO

ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED.
THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH
WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE
REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT
AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILI-
TIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERU-
SALEM AND IN ISMALIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGESS TOWARD
RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME,
BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED.
I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE
THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETER-
IORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE
COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT
HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN
AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN
NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREE-
MENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON
SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF
A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED
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FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT
INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PRO-
MOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT
IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT
ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEM-
SELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE
OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISIONS TO EX-
TEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT
CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS
AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE
NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING
WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST
NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS FOR
TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF THE
IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT OF A

MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE
THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT
IN THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END
TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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